



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

future of asking a participation in the inshore fisheries of the British provinces, and thus enable us to dispense with fishery treaties or fishery relations of any kind with the British or other governments."

HORN'S SYNOPSIS OF THE BURYING BEETLES OF THE UNITED STATES.<sup>1</sup>—Although this essay is modestly called a "Synopsis," it is much more than that, as the characters of the family and its sub-divisions, of every species and genus, are given with sufficient fullness, and moreover the common species which were described years ago are re-described. This is an excellent feature, because in synopses of different groups of insects it is usually the case that the species already described are mentioned only by name, and to the beginner it is difficult to learn what are really the common species briefly and imperfectly described in the often inaccessible works of Linnæus, Fabricius, Olivier, Dejean and others. Another excellent feature of the essay is that the author has himself given excellent figures in outline of all known genera (with few exceptions), nearly all of which have been drawn by himself from nature.

Dr Horn has made some changes in the limits of the group, and all the foreign genera have been included in the study and mentioned in the generic tables, though not described. The family is an interesting one, as it includes the true burying beetles, and also a good proportion of the cave beetle of Europe and America. It is interesting to trace, as Dr. Horn has done, the relationship of our *Adelops* of the Mammoth Cave to the out-of-door forms, and to see, a point not however noticed by the author, that *Adelops* simply differs from its out-of-door allies of the genus *Ptomaphagus* in the small eyes, and longer, slenderer antennæ, and other slight characters, so as to lead our author to say that *Adelops* "is closely allied to *Ptomaphagus* and I am in doubt whether it should be retained as distinct." We should reason from this that *Adelops hirtus* was originally derived from some out-of-door species of *Ptomaphagus* which had got into the cave and been modified by its cave-life into its present form. The main results of a cave life are the impairment or actual loss of the eyes, and to compensate for this the elongation of the antennæ, which probably renders the sense of touch, and possibly of smell, more acute. This also adds another to the cases which almost demonstrate that all the cave animals have originated from out-of-door forms.

In conclusion we may express the hope that the recent labors of Drs. LeConte and Horn, may enable them ere many years to prepare a compact manual of our United States Coleoptera, a consummation most devoutly to be wished. With fair compendiums

<sup>1</sup> Synopsis of the Silphidæ of the United States with reference to the genera of other countries. By GEO. H. HORN, M.D. From the transactions of the American Entomological Society. Philadelphia, 1880. 8°, pp. 219-320. 3 plates.

of our native bees, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths, bugs and grasshoppers and Neuroptera, an immense impetus would be given to the study of entomology. As it is, we fear that the twentieth century will be far advanced before these desirable works will be published.

ROBINSON'S FLORA OF ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.<sup>1</sup>—Essex county enjoys the distinction of being at an early date one of the botanical centers of the United States, as it was the home of Dr. Manasseh Cutler, Dr. George Osgood, Dr. Andrew Nichols, Dr. Charles Pickering and, more particularly, of William Oakes, to whose memory the genus *Oakesia* has recently been dedicated by Mr. Sereno Watson. The names also of Rev. John L. Russell and Mr. Geo. D. Phippen, Mr. S. B. Buttick, and of others, should be mentioned; while Mr. C. M. Tracy, in his Flora of Lynn, was the first to publish a list of Essex county plants. These and other facts are related by our author in the historical introduction to his Flora. It appears that originally almost the only extended collection of dried Essex county plants were those of the late Mr. Oakes, but the list before us is based upon the herbarium recently collected by Mr. Robinson, and nearly all of which is represented in that of the Peabody Academy of Science, at Salem. The notes under the specific names are quite full and interesting as regards the flowering plants; the enumeration of mosses and thallophytes, in which the author was assisted by other botanists, is less complete. We would like to have seen a more detailed bibliography, *i. e.*, the titles given in full, with complete references to articles by the earlier botanists, of which the titles and dates are not always given; only the name, without the date, of the magazines or transactions containing them. But this is a minor blemish. The undertaking has been well carried out, the volume is a handsome one, and it will be a *vade mecum* to the herbalist of eastern New England.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE ON ANALYSES OF INKS.—A committee of the Franklin Institute was appointed by a vote of that body at its November meeting, for the purpose of examining into the truth of certain statements made and the value of certain tests proposed for the detection of iron in inks. The object of the appointment was stated to be that during the interval of time which should elapse between now and the legal remedy of the expert abuse in court, an extra judicial court might criticise all statements professing to be scientific and the fear of reversal before their peers might be an additional security for the value of expert statements.

The committee resolves "that inasmuch as the methods for the detection of iron in inks and for the identification of inks are described in numerous and well-known works on chemistry; and inasmuch as the chemical expert testimony in the Whittaker

<sup>1</sup> The Flora of Essex county, Massachusetts. JOHN ROBINSON, Salem. Essex Institute, 1880. 8° pp. 200.